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SAYS HE ALLOWED A LAG IN INQUIRY

5/25/73

L. Patrick Gray 3d, former acting F.B.I. director, before Senate Appropriations Subcommittee yesterday.

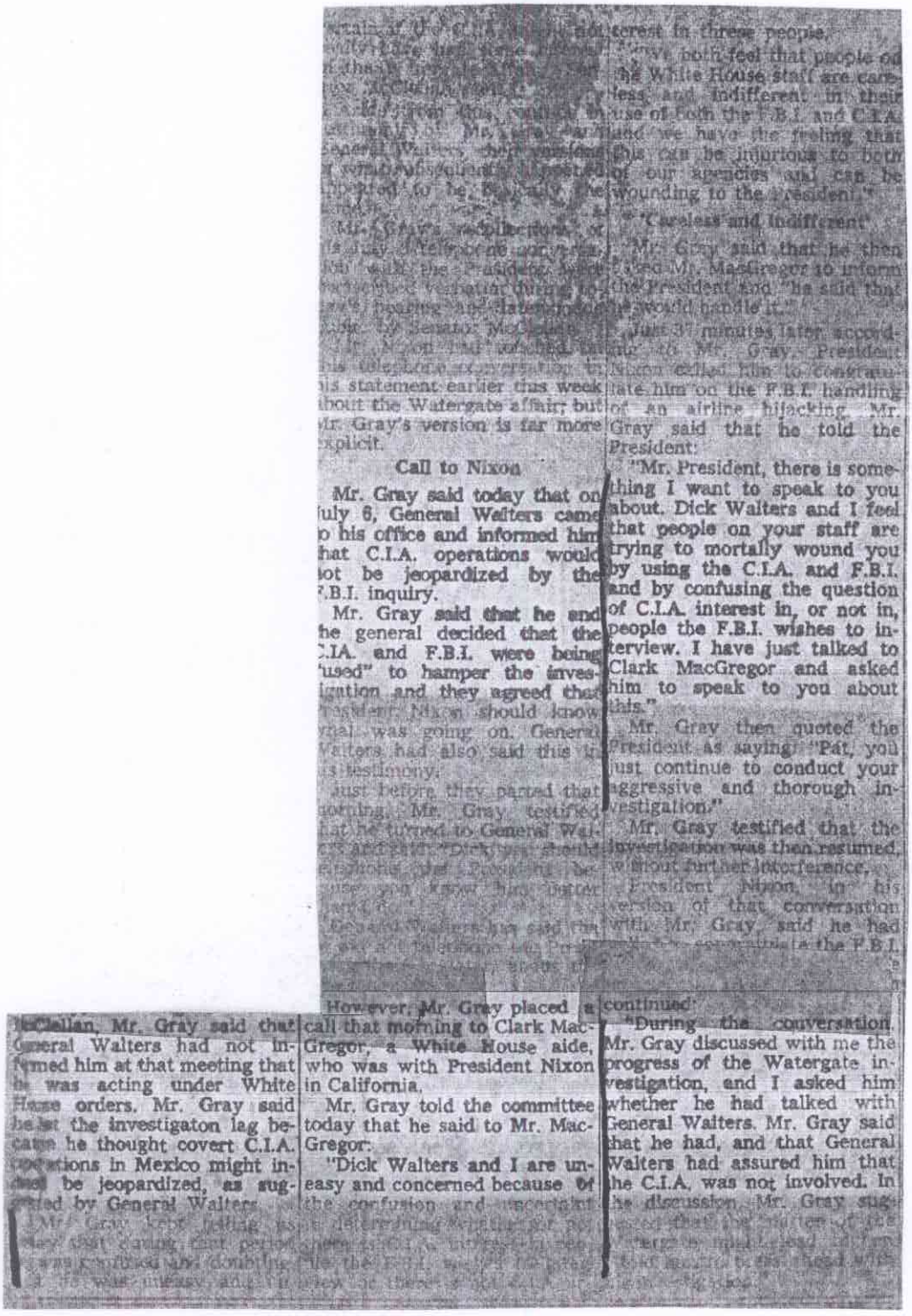
His testimony, recounted later by Senator John L. McClellan of Arkansas, the subcommittee chairman, conflicted in one major respect with that given several Congressional committees in the last few weeks by Lieut. Gen. Vernon A. Walters, Deputy Director of Central Intelligence.

Haldeman Role Cited

General Walters had said in an affidavit that on June 23, he was ordered by H. R. Haldeman, then White House chief of staff, to persuade Mr. Gray to call off the F.B.I. investigation into campaign funds "laundered" through a Mexico City bank.

The general said that he went to see Mr. Gray that same day

Today, according to Senator



...terest in these people.

...y both feel that people on ...he White House staff are care...less and indifferent in their ...use of both the F.B.I. and C.I.A. ...and we have the feeling that ...this can be injurious to both ...of our agencies and can be ...wounding to the President."

'Careless and Indifferent'

Mr. Gray said that he then ...ked Mr. MacGregor to inform ...the President and "he said that ...he would handle it."

...Just 37 minutes later, accord...ing to Mr. Gray, President ...Nixon called him to congratu...late him on the F.B.I. handling ...of an airline hijacking. Mr. ...Gray said that he told the ...President:

"Mr. President, there is some...thing I want to speak to you about. Dick Walters and I feel that people on your staff are trying to mortally wound you by using the C.I.A. and F.B.I. and by confusing the question of C.I.A. interest in, or not in, people the F.B.I. wishes to interview. I have just talked to Clark MacGregor and asked him to speak to you about this."

Mr. Gray then quoted the President as saying: "Pat, you just continue to conduct your aggressive and thorough investigation."

Mr. Gray testified that the investigation was then resumed, without further interference.

President Nixon, in his version of that conversation with Mr. Gray, said he had ...to communicate the F.B.I.

...continued:

"During the conversation, Mr. Gray discussed with me the progress of the Watergate investigation, and I asked him whether he had talked with General Walters. Mr. Gray said that he had, and that General Walters had assured him that the C.I.A. was not involved. In the discussion, Mr. Gray sug...

...ed that the matter of the ...

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